

**Memorandum of Understanding  
between  
The Government of the United States of America  
and  
The Government of the People's Republic of China  
Concerning  
the Establishment of the  
U.S.-China Governors Forum  
to Promote Sub-National Cooperation**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as "Both Sides");

Recognizing that increased sub-national cooperation strengthens U.S.-China bilateral relations;

Appreciating that sub-national leaders in the United States and in China face many similar opportunities and challenges in promoting economic growth and prosperity;

With a view to further promoting practical cooperation and friendship between the two sides; and

Noting the principles of reciprocity, mutual respect, and mutual benefit,

Have reached the following understanding:

1. Both Sides support the efforts of the National Governors Association of the United States of America and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to establish the U.S.-China Governors Forum.
2. The purpose of the Governors Forum is to promote understanding and cooperation between the two sides by creating a platform of peer to peer exchanges for sub-national leaders to discuss areas of mutual interest.
3. Both Sides envision that topics to be discussed at the Governors Forum are to include trade and investment, energy and the environment, people-to-people exchanges, tourism, education, culture and other topics as appropriate.

4. Both Sides look forward to the first round of the Governors Forum, which is expected to take place in 2011 in the United States.
5. Both Sides confirm that the Governors Forum is not intended to replace any existing agreement or consultative mechanism between the two governments.
6. This Memorandum of Understanding is effective as of the date of its signature.

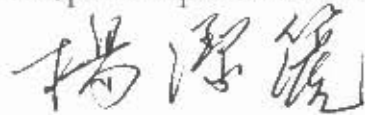
Signed in duplicate in Washington, D.C. on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2011, in the English and Chinese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the  
United States of America:



Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary of State

For the Government of the  
People's Republic of China:



Yang Jiechi  
Minister of Foreign Affairs